Employment of Children in Beedi Manufacturing

1438. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its judgement has passed 11 directives in regard to the need for an immediate ban on the employment of children in beedi manufacturing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for the implementation of these directives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) In a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1262 of 1987 regarding District Beedi Workers' Union V/S State of Tamil Nadu and others, the Supreme Court has issued only one directive regarding employment of children in beedi industry which states:

"Tobacco manufacturing has indeed health hazards. Child labour in this trade should therefore be prohibited as far as possible and employment of child labour should be stopped either immediately or in a phased manner to be decided by the State Governments but within a period not exceeding three years from now. The provisions of Child Labour Abolition Act, 1986 should be strictly implemented."

Agreement arrived at with the provident fund defaulting Jute Companies

1439. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union labour Minister in 1986 had called a meeting of Provident Fund defaulting jute companies where it was decided that 8 percent deductions would be made from employee's salaries for contribution to Provident Fund and ESI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agreement was honoured by the jute mill owners; and

(d) if not, what action is proposed to be taken against such jute mills?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At the meeting taken by the Union Labour Minister on 7th July, 1986 it was decided *inter-alia* that the defaulting jute mills will liquidate arrears of EPF/ESI dues by way of deduction of 8 per cent on the bills payable to them by the DGS&D. Since most of the mills failed to honour the agreement, it was withdrawn.

(d) The EPF and ESI authorities are taking normal penal and legal action against the defaulting establishments for realisation of the outstanding dues.

पंजाब नेशनल फर्टिलाइजर्स एण्ड केमिकल्स लिमिटेड के बन्द होने की सम्भावना

1440. **सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 16 सितम्बर, 1991 के "दि ट्रिब्यून" में "800 मे बी रेंडर्ड जॉबलैस" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उर्वरकों के संबंध में घोषित नई राष्ट्रीय नीति के अनुसार पंजाब नेशनल फर्टिलाइजर्स एण्ड केमिकल्स लिमिटेड के बन्द हो जाने की संभावना के परिणामस्वरूप लगभग 800 श्रमिकों के बेरोजगार हो जाने की संभावना है ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि पंजाब प्रशासन ने इस संबंध में सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट किया है ; और